

# Upcoming Webinars

Webinars are \$10 each for non NAPD Members.

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## **Webinar: Creating a Defender-Driven Empirical Research Agenda**

**November 13, 2015 at 12:00 pm eastern (60 minutes)**

[Click here to register](#)

**About the Webinar:** This webinar will introduce IDRA, the Indigent Defense Research Association. IDRA is a group of defenders, researchers, teachers and policy advocates who want to use data and research to improve public defense. Andy Davies and Janet Moore, IDRA's co-conveners, will briefly discuss IDRA's goals and principles. Participants will then join an interactive brainstorming session. The session models an efficient, low-cost way to generate a defender-driven research agenda. We will then discuss ways for defenders to answer questions on the research agenda, including through partnerships with researchers.

### **About the Faculty:**

Andrew Davies is Director of Research at the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services. His job is to track data on those services, and to push a research agenda for their improvement. He earned a PhD in criminal justice in 2012 from SUN Albany and has published research on public defense in a variety of books, academic journals and law reviews. Prior to coming to the Office of Indigent Legal Services he also worked for several years as a researcher for the New York State Defender Association and spent a short but formative time as an intern gathering mitigation evidence in capital cases in Atlanta, Georgia.

Janet Moore is an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, teaching in the areas of criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, and capital punishment. In her first year, she received both the College of Law's Goldman Prize for Teaching Excellence and the Junior Scholar Paper Competition Award sponsored by the Criminal Justice Section of the Association of American Law Schools. Professor Moore's scholarship focuses on the legal and political conditions that empower stakeholders to obtain greater transparency and accountability from criminal justice systems. Her work is informed by critical theory and long experience in capital defense and criminal justice reform research and advocacy. In 2007, she was awarded a Senior Justice Advocacy Fellowship by the Open Society Institute. Her project focused on improving indigent defense systems. That work led to her appointment by the Ohio Supreme Court to the state Public Defender Commission, where she served from 2009-2011. Professor Moore received joint J.D./M.A. (Philosophy) degrees from Duke University and an M.A. degree (Divinity) from the University of Chicago. At Duke, she served as Editor-in-Chief of Law & Contemporary Problems, the nation's first interdisciplinary law journal. After graduation, she clerked for the Honorable J. Dickson Phillips, Jr., on the United States Court of

Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

**Webinar: Challenging Fines & Fees**

Instructors: David E. Clark, Senior Assistant Public Defender, Guilford, NC and Jani Maselli Wood, Assistant Public Defender, Harris County Public Defender's Office (Houston, TX)

November 17, 2015 at 2:00 pm eastern (90 minutes)

[Click here to register](#)

**About the Webinar:** The move from a taxpayer funded legal system to a user funded legal system has resulted in the increasing use of fines and fees to fund the legal system. This webinar will introduce strategies defenders can use to seek remission or reduction of these fines and fees for indigent criminal defendants, and will also present constitutional challenges defenders may be able to make regarding court costs and fees.

**About the Faculty:**

David Clark is the Senior Assistant Public Defender for the Guilford County Public Defender. He graduated UNC Law in 1986 and was commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. While in the Air Force, he was a circuit defense counsel representing military members charged with felony offenses across the western United States and Hawaii. He came off active duty in 1991 but remained in the Air Force Reserve until his retirement in 2009. He joined the Guilford County Public Defender's staff in 1991. Over the years he's tried in excess of 150 jury trials including eight fully litigated Capital cases. He's also presented on a variety of criminal law topics at numerous CLE's including those given by the Air Force JAG School, the North Carolina School of Government, the North Carolina Public Defender's Conference and the North Carolina Advocates for Justice.

Jani Maselli Wood loves her family, her dog, Bruce Springsteen, and the Constitution. In that order.

**Webinar: Jury Selection in a DNA Case: Finding Jurors who Support the Themes of Your Theory of Defense**

Instructors: [Andre Vitale](#), Special Assistant Public Defender, Training Director, Monroe County Public Defender's Office (NY)

November 23, 2015 at 2:00 pm eastern (90 minutes)

[Click here to register](#)

**About the Webinar:** Jury Selection is one of the most important parts of a criminal trial. Many times a case can be won or lost based upon the jury you select. This presentation will discuss how to conduct jury selection in cases involving DNA evidence that is presented as linking the

person you represent to the crime. Most potential Jurors enter these trials with the mindset that DNA is the smoking gun. Many lawyers feel that way too. DNA cases are hard, but they can be won. To be successful, your defense must be well thought out, well prepared, and well planned. You must develop a well thought out Story of Innocence that includes a themes which address the DNA evidence. This presentation will discuss the differing approaches to address DNA evidence and potential themes you can use to both educate your jury as well as find those who will be supportive of your defense. We will discuss the general goals of Jury Selection as well as two differing methods (jury selection vs. de-selection). We will discuss approaches to finding those jurors who may be most likely to support your defense, keeping an open mind throughout the trial, and not as inclined to end their analysis at the DNA evidence that is presented as linking the person you represent to the crime. Lastly, we will discuss different themes to discuss with potential jurors which cover a wide range of approaches to dealing with the DNA evidence in relation to your client's theory of defense.

**About the Faculty:** Andre Vitale is a Special Assistant Public Defender, Monroe County since 1999, where he serves as Director of Training and carries a full caseload, defending individuals charged with Violent Felonies and Major Drug Crimes. Andre is a committed advocate who volunteers significant time to improving the quality of indigent defense through teaching and work on various criminal defense organizations. In addition to presenting in CLE programs throughout New York State, Andre is on the faculty of Gideon's Promise (Atlanta, GA) and the Louisiana Public Defender Training Institute. He is a participant on the NY Eyewitness Reform working group and serves as a Vice President with the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NYSACDL). Andre has been awarded the Kevin Andersen Award by the New York State Defender's Association (NYSDA) and the Denison Ray Award by the New York State Bar Association for his commitment to indigent defense and client centered representation.

### **Webinar: Focusing on Child Safety in Child Welfare Cases**

Instructors: [Richard M. Pittman](#), Deputy Public Defender - Director of Juvenile Defender Services, Louisiana Public Defender Board (Baton Rouge, LA)

December 4, 2015 at 2:00 pm eastern (90 minutes)

[Click here to register](#)

**About the Webinar:** When Child Welfare cases are focused on child safety, they are not focused on white middle class values or on vague and ambiguous notions of what is "best" for kids. Instead, they focus on family dynamics that impact the immediate life, health, and safety of children, focusing on actual identifiable safety threats and how to correct those safety threats. "Child Safety: A Guide For Judges and Attorneys" by Lund and Renne provides a framework for analyzing child safety in a way that, if done correctly, avoids cultural value judgments and helps preserve families. The concepts dovetail nicely with Supreme Court cases on the fundamental right of family associations as well.

**About the Faculty:** Richard Pittman was hired by the Louisiana Public Defender Board on May

28, 2013, to be the Deputy Public Defender - Director of Juvenile Defender Services. He began his career in public defense in Juvenile Court and in criminal courts in 2006, and continued in the practice until his appointment as Deputy Public Defender. From 2006-2013, he represented juveniles accused of delinquency, parents and children in abuse and neglect cases, adults accused of misdemeanors and felonies up to an including capital murder. He had guardian ad litem certification which he maintained from 2006 until 2013. Prior to his public defense practice, Mr. Pittman worked in the field of personal injury litigation. Mr. Pittman graduated from East Ascension High School in Gonzales, Louisiana, in 1992. Thereafter he attended Louisiana State University and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering in 1996. He then obtained a Masters of Chemical Engineering from the University of Delaware in 1999. By then he was working as a consultant for C.F. Picou Associates, a Baton Rouge firm specializing in process control with business worldwide. In 2001, Mr. Pittman decided to go to law school and was admitted to the University of Alabama School of Law in 2002, graduating with honors in 2005. While at the University of Alabama School of Law, he was awarded the Order of Samaritan for public service and volunteerism.

## Recent NAPD Blog Posts

### [The Hug I Didn't Deserve](#)

[Andre Vitale](#)



In the more than four months since I first met MB's mother, this was the first time we were able to smile about her son's case. It was nice to be able to bring her a certain amount of joy because of how deeply she stands by and loves her son in spite of the fact that he has been involved with the criminal courts for the vast majority of his life. This day was the first time since we first met her that I was able to provide her with "good news". In criminal defense, especially when you handle primarily violent felonies, "good news" is a relative term.

[Read more...](#)

### [Yes, It Can Happen](#)

[Ernie Lewis](#)



Why wasn't I seeing the matter more as a criminal defense lawyer, empathizing more with the lawyers defending the police rather than rooting for justice for the victims? It occurs to me that being a public defender is more than being a criminal defense lawyer.

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### [Public Defenders Key to Reducing Mass Incarceration](#)

[Jonathan Rapping](#)



We can change laws designed to govern how police, prosecutors, and judges do their jobs, but if we do not adequately support public defenders so that they can point out when the rules are broken, violations will go undetected.

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## Daily Digest Email

We've created a listserv that will send you daily digests of all posts to NAPD's Facebook page. Even if you have liked NAPD's Facebook page, you may want to sign up for this listserv. Facebook does not

show all NAPD (or any organization's) posts on your feed. This email or following on [Twitter](#) are the best ways to ensure you don't miss a post.

This includes notices of new NAPD articles and podcasts as well as links to many other stories related to public defense.

On average the email will include 5-10 short posts with links to the longer resources.

To sign up – send a blank email to [nspd-syndicate-subscribe@publicdefenders.us](mailto:nspd-syndicate-subscribe@publicdefenders.us)

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